

Appl. No. : 10/789,357
Filed : February 27, 2004

REMARKS

Please reconsider the above-captioned application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Objected-to But Allowable Claims Have Been Rewritten Into Independent Form

The Examiner objected to Claims 92-100, but indicated that each of these claims would be allowable if rewritten into independent form.

Applicants have incorporated the limitations of Claim 92 into independent Claim 91; thus, Claim 91 is, effectively, a rewritten, independent form of Claim 92, which has now been cancelled. Claims 98 and 100 have been rewritten into independent form as suggested by the Examiner.

As indicated by the Examiner, each of these newly-independent claims recites allowable subject matter. The claims that depend from these currently-allowable claims recite further patentable subject matter. All of these claims are currently in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejection Overcome by Rewriting Claim 91

The Examiner rejected Claim 91. In order to speed prosecution, Applicants have amended the claim to incorporate the limitations of Claim 92, which the Examiner stated would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of previous Claim 91 in further applications.

Clarifying Amendments

Applicants have made some clarifying amendments to certain claims. For example, Claims 83 and 84 have been amended to make them consistent with the claim from which they depend; and Claims 93-96 have been amended to update dependency in light of the cancellation of Claim 92. Claim 97 has been amended to clarify that the recited angle is acute. This amendment is supported, for instance by Figure 19 and the accompanying discussion in the specification.

Allowable Claims Are Allowable Based On Consideration Of The Claim As A Whole

The Examiner indicated several claims were allowed or allowable. The Examiner further included a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. In response to the statement, Applicants wish to clarify that each of the allowable claims is allowable in consideration of all of the claim limitations as a whole. Thus, all of the limitations of each

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allowable claim considered as a whole, and not any specific limitation or group of limitations, make such claims allowable.

New Claims Recite Patentable Subject Matter

New Claims 110 - 117 have been added to more fully recite the subject matter Applicants consider to be the invention. New Claims 110 - 112 depend from allowable independent Claim 91; new Claims 113 - 117 depend from allowable independent Claim 100. All of these claims are currently in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

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